

REMARKS

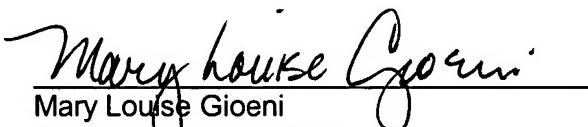
Claims 1-30 were presented at the time of filing. The application was subject to restriction and election of species, and the invention of Group I (claims 1-27) and the species of group I, (claims 1-3, and 5-27) were elected. Claims 1-13 were canceled in the response filed on September 15, 2003. Therefore, claims 14-27 are now pending.

The Office Action indicates that claims 15 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This indication of allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. Accordingly, claim 15 is now rewritten to include the limitations of base claim 14. It is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, was overcome by the amendment filed with the response dated September 15, 2003, as this rejection does not appear in the current Office Action. Claims 17-19 and 21-27 are amended to depend from claim 15, and claim 14 is canceled. Therefore, the rejection of claim 14 and claims 17-27, which formerly depended from claim 14, over U.S. Patent No. 5,484,950 (Crivello I) in view of Crivello et al., Chem. Mater., 1997, pgs. 1554-1561 (Crivello II), is moot.

As noted by the Examiner, neither Crivello I nor Crivello II disclose reacting an additional alkoxysilane or siloxane as claimed. Applicant submits that claim 15 and its dependent claims, as amended, are patentable over the cited references and are now in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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